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(b) whether it is a fact that in the examination held in Kumbakonam on the 3rd December 1927 the Superintendent did not allow the candidates to do so; and

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to hold a re-examination or what steps the Government propose to take to redress the hardship caused to the candidates?

A.—(a) Candidates are allowed to insert the blank paper in their machines but not to type their names or the names of their machines.

(b) & (c) The Superintendent acted in accordance with the instructions issued for the conduct of the examination.

Farewell speech of Mr. Arthur Davies, late Principal of the Law College.

* 1527 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the speech of Mr. Arthur Davies, the late Principal of the Law College, at the farewell function given in his honour on the 10th of this month;

(b) whether, in view of the observations made by Mr. Arthur Davies, the question of cutting down the number of subjects in the present law curriculum will be considered; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to reduce the size of the classes in the Law College?

A.—(a) The Government have since perused the speech in question.

(b) The courses of instruction for the B.L. classes are arranged in accordance with the Regulations of the Madras University. The question whether any change should be made in the present curriculum of studies is one for the consideration of the University.

(c) Rule 15 of the rules regulating the constitution and working of the Law College provides that there shall be no fixed limit to the number of students to be admitted into any class and that admission shall be made by the selection committee with due regard to the accommodation and staff available for efficient instruction. There is at present no proposal to change the rule.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"With reference to the answer to clause (b), may I know whether the Government will draw the attention of the University to this matter?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Yes, Sir."

Prevention of boys from smoking in school premises.

* 1528 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Director of Public Instruction had issued a few years ago a circular directing managers of schools to prevent boys from smoking in the school premises and, if so, whether a copy of it can be placed on the table of the House;

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(b) what effect this circular has had on school boys and whether it is being enforced now; and

(c) whether Government propose to do anything further in this direction?

A.—(a) Yes. A copy of the circular^a issued in 1925 is placed on the table.

(b) The circular is still in force. There are no specific data as to its effect on school boys.

(c) No.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—“ Will the hon. the Minister for Education call for a report on the effect which this circular has had on the students in schools and colleges?”

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“ I shall try my best to obtain that information on this point.”

Introduction of instruction in Agriculture in Elementary Schools.

* 1529 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether any applications for grant-in-aid from elementary schools have been received for introducing instruction in agriculture;

(b) whether the general question of introducing agriculture as a part of the curriculum in certain elementary schools on the Punjab model has been referred to a Committee;

(c) if the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, who are the members of the Committee and what its terms of reference are;

(d) whether the Committee has been asked to consult public opinion on the subject by inviting the views of interested persons; and

(e) whether the report of the Committee will be published for criticism before action is taken on the same by the Government?

A.—(a) Applications have been received for grants-in-aid for the introduction of instruction in agriculture in the C.M.S. Higher Elementary School, Kidyanagar-Kondapalli, Kistna district, and in the school maintained by the Malabar Reconstruction Trust at Tanur. They are under the consideration of Government.

(b) Yes.

(c) The members of the Committee are the Director of Agriculture as President and the Principal, Agricultural College, Coimbatore, the Principal, Teachers' College, Saidapet, and Mr. R. M. Statham.

The terms of reference to the Committee are as follows :—

- (i) To frame a syllabus for an alternative course in agriculture proposed to be introduced in select higher elementary and middle schools in this Presidency and the number of hours to be allotted for the course;